

## Message Text

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DRAFTED BY NEA:ARDAY:MAR

APPROVED BY THE SECRETARY

P:PHABIB

NEA:ALATHERTONJR.

S/S:O:DLMACK

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 180072

NODIS

FOR AMBASSADOR FROM SECRETARY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SY, US

SUBJECT: SOVIET PRESSURES ON SYRIA

REF: DAMASCUS 4752

1. IN YOUR TALK WITH ASAD AND KHADDAM, YOU SHOULD PROBE FOR INFORMATION AND COMMENT ABOUT THE SOVIET-SYRIAN SITUATION DESCRIBED TO US BY HUSSEIN. AS YOU POINT OUT (DAMASCUS 4702) PAST EXPERIENCE INDICATES THAT WE WILL LIKELY FIND OURSELVES IN A POSITION OF HAVING TO PUSH ASAD TO TELL US WHAT EXACTLY IS ON HIS MIND AND HOW WE MIGHT BE HELPFUL.

2. YOU SHOULD SAY THE SECRETARY WANTS YOU TO BE IN A POSITION TO GIVE HIM PERSONALLY ON A COMPLETELY CONFIDENTIAL BASIS THE FULLEST POSSIBLE UNDERSTANDING OF THE SITUATION AS SYRIA SEES IT. YOU SHOULD THEN, DURING THE COURSE OF THE DISCUSSION, TRY AS BEST YOU CAN TO COVER THE POINTS THAT

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HUSSEIN CONVEYED TO US (AMMAN 3753) IN ORDER TO ELICIT

SYRIAN CONFIRMATION OR COMMENT.

3. WE WILL OF COURSE BE PARTICULARLY INTERESTED IN THE FORM THAT THE SOVIET PRESSURE HAS TAKEN. HUSSEIN TOLD US

THE SOVIETS HAD IMPLIED, APPARENTLY IN A NOTE TO THE SYRIANS FOLLOWING KHADDAM'S MOSCOW TRIP, THAT THEY WOULD CUT OFF THE SUPPLY OF SPARE PARTS AND ECONOMIC AID IF SYRIA DID NOT COMPLY WITH SOVIET DEMANDS. WE HAVE HEARD OTHER REPORTS THAT THE SOVIETS EXPLICITLY THREATENED A CUT OFF OF ARMS AND SPARE PARTS.

4. WE WILL ALSO WANT TO KNOW AS MUCH AS THE SYRIANS WILL TELL US ABOUT THE NATURE OF THE DEMANDS THE SOVIETS HAD MADE UPON THEM. HUSSEIN TOLD US THEY WERE INSISTING ON AN IMMEDIATE WITHDRAWAL OF SYRIAN FORCES FROM LEBANON.

5. YOU SHOULD STRESS AGAIN OUR DESIRE TO SUPPORT SYRIA IN ITS PURSUIT OF AN INDEPENDENT POLICY AND OF A POLITICAL SOLUTION IN LEBANON BASED ON THE JANUARY FORMULA. IN ASKING HOW WE MIGHT BE OF MOST HELP IN THE FACE OF SOVIET PRESSURES, YOU MIGHT OBTAIN SOME IDEA OF THE PRINCIPLE PROBLEMS THE SYRIAN PERCEIVE FOR THEMSELVES IF THE SOVIETS CARRY OUT WHATEVER THREATS THEY HAVE MADE.

6. FINALLY, WE WOULD LIKE TO HEAR AS MUCH AS THE SYRIANS WILL TELL US ABOUT WHAT THEY SEE AHEAD IN LEBANON. WE CANNOT EXPECT THEM TO BE OPEN WITH US ABOUT THEIR OWN INTENTIONS, BUT THEIR ASSESSMENT OF THE PLAY OF FORCES IN THE SITUATION WILL BE USEFUL TO US. KISSINGER

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